

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2-5, and 7-10 without prejudice.

Amend the following claim:

1. (Amended) A belt retractor for an occupant restraint system comprising:

a frame and a belt spool, said belt spool having a pair of flanges and being rotatably mounted in said frame, said belt retractor further comprising a locking mechanism for selective blocking rotation of said belt spool,

said locking mechanism comprising an external toothed on at least one of said pair of flanges and a locking pawl pivotally mounted on said frame for selective engagement with said external toothed,

said external toothed being formed on a wheel member on said one flange of said belt spool, said flange extending radially beyond said wheel member, said locking pawl bearing laterally both on said flange and on said frame on a side of said pawl facing away from said flange of said belt spool, and

said locking pawl being biased into an engaged position and being movable by means of a solenoid into an inactive position out of engagement with said external toothed.

[Add the following claims:

3 / 11. A belt retractor for an occupant restraint system comprising:

a frame and a belt spool, said belt spool having a pair of flanges and being rotatably mounted in said frame, said belt retractor further comprising a locking mechanism for selective blocking rotation of said belt spool,

said locking mechanism comprising an external toothed on at least one of said pair of flanges and a locking pawl pivotally mounted on said frame for selective engagement with said external toothed,

said external toothed being formed on a wheel member on said one flange of said belt spool, said flange extending radially beyond said wheel member, said locking pawl bearing laterally both on said flange and on said frame on a side of said pawl facing away from said flange of said belt spool, and

said locking pawl being biased into an engaged position and being movable by means of a solenoid into an inactive position out of engagement with said external toothed,

said frame having a side wall with a main section and a parallel offset wing connected to the main section by a bent wall strip, a bearing recess extending within said wing through said bent wall strip and into the main section of the side wall, said locking pawl having a rounded end pivotally accommodated in said bearing recess.

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4 12. The belt retractor according to claim 11 wherein
said parallel offset wing, said wheel member and said locking
pawl lie in a common plane.

5 13. A belt retractor for an occupant restraint system
comprising:

a frame,
a belt spool having a pair of flanges and rotatably
mounted in said frame, and
a locking mechanism for selective blocking of said
belt spool rotation, said locking mechanism comprising an
external toothed ring on at least one of said pair of flanges and
a locking pawl pivotally mounted on said frame for selective
engagement with said external toothed ring, said locking pawl
being biased into an engaged position and movable by means of
a solenoid into an inactive position out of engagement with
said external toothed ring,

said belt spool being connected to an electric motor
by a toothed belt, the electric motor being mounted on a base
plate together with a printed circuit board that holds motor
controlling circuitry, said base plate being supported on a
side wall of said frame in such a way as to pivot to a limited
extent, the toothed belt being set under tension by a pivoting
motion of the base plate as a function of driving torque.

6 14. The belt retractor according to claim 13 wherein
said solenoid is also mounted on said printed circuit board.

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7 15. The belt retractor according to claim 14 wherein
said locking pawl is spaced from said solenoid a distance that
remains essentially unchanged when the base plate is pivoted.

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